

Force, which included St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department officers, engaged in an effort to apprehend a dangerous fugitive in St. Louis. In approaching the fugitive's residence, the officers and deputies, discovering there were two children at the home, safely removed them and entered the home behind a ballistic shield. Upon entering the home and ascending a stairwell, the officers and deputies were fired upon by the fugitive. Both Deputy U.S. Marshal John Perry and St. Louis Police Officer Jeff Helbling were wounded in the initial exchange of gunfire. Tragically, Deputy Perry's wounds later proved fatal. While other task force members engaged the fugitive, Officer Anna Kimble alerted supporting officers of the shooting over the radio system and Officer Joe Kuster provided perimeter security. A rescue attempt was mounted by the U.S. Marshals, during which another deputy U.S. Marshal was wounded. In the course of the rescue attempt, the fugitive was subdued by task force team members.

I am proud these three officers hail from my home State of Missouri. Their sincere dedication to duty and endless compassion for the residents of the city they serve are an inspiration to the people of St. Louis. First responders like these place themselves in harm's way every day, forsaking the safety many of us take for granted. They and their families make precious sacrifices so that we, the American public, may enjoy the freedom to live our lives to an extent made possible by the knowledge that someone stands watchful and ready on our behalf.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department Detectives Jeff Helbling, Anna Kimble, and Joe Kuster for their distinguished service to the people of St. Louis. I thank them, and I thank all of you for joining me in recognizing these outstanding Missourians.

Finally, Mr. President, I wish to honor two deputy U.S. marshals who played an instrumental role in the March 8, 2011, apprehension of a fugitive in St. Louis, MO, an incident that claimed the life of Deputy U.S. Marshal John Perry and resulted in the wounding of Deputy U.S. Marshal Theodore "Ted" Abegg, as well as St. Louis Police Officer Jeff Helbling. Before I talk about the heroic service and incredible sacrifice of these two deputies, I have to mention the tremendous service the U.S. Marshals Service provides to the people of this country every day. As the Nation's oldest Federal law enforcement agency, the U.S. Marshals Service provides a variety of crucial services, including protecting Federal judges, operating the Witness Security Program, seizing illegally obtained assets from criminals, and apprehending Federal fugitives—a function which led to its cooperation with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department and the formation of the U.S. Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force

in St. Louis. Since its inception in 1789, over 200 Federal marshals, deputy marshals, special deputy marshals, and marshals guards have lost their lives in the line of duty. When the U.S. Marshals Service's steadfast devotion to crime prevention and mitigation is considered alongside its traditional witness protection and judicial security duties, the law enforcement officials of this agency truly exemplify the values of "Justice, Integrity, Service."

I know how critically important the Marshals Service is to the Federal justice system and the impact these officials have in communities across Missouri. These highly trained men and women help form the backbone of our legal system, and I salute the countless acts of bravery performed by Federal law enforcement officers across Missouri and this Nation.

On March 8, 2011, members of the U.S. Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force, which included St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department officers, engaged in an effort to apprehend a dangerous fugitive in St. Louis. In approaching the fugitive's residence, the officers and deputies, discovering there were two children at the home, safely removed them and entered the home behind a ballistic shield. Upon entering the home and ascending a stairwell, the officers and deputies were fired upon by the fugitive. Both Deputy U.S. Marshal John Perry and St. Louis Police Officer Jeff Helbling were wounded in the initial exchange of gunfire. Tragically, Deputy Perry's wounds later proved fatal. While other task force members engaged the fugitive, Officer Anna Kimble alerted supporting officers of the shooting over the radio system, Deputy U.S. Marshal Melissa Duffy administered first aid to Officer Helbling, and Deputy U.S. Marshal Shawn Jackson provided protective cover allowing wounded Deputy U.S. Marshal Abegg to withdraw. A rescue attempt was mounted by the U.S. marshals, during which another deputy U.S. marshal was wounded. In the course of the rescue attempt, the fugitive was subdued by task force team members.

I am proud these two deputies are based in my home State of Missouri. Their sincere dedication to duty and strong sense of justice are an inspiration to the American people. Marshals like these place themselves in harm's way every day, forsaking the safety many of us take for granted. They and their families make precious sacrifices so that we, the American public, may enjoy the freedom to live our lives to an extent made possible by the knowledge that someone stands watchful and ready on our behalf.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Deputy U.S. Marshals Melissa Duffy and Shawn Jackson for their distinguished service to the people of this country. I thank them, and I thank all of you for joining me in recognizing these outstanding individuals.

#### REMEMBERING JIM McCUSKER, JR.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to remember Jim McCusker of Clinton, CT. The State of Connecticut has lost a great public servant, former first selectman, and loyal Marine. Jim was an inspiring leader and model of public service, and I am grateful for our friendship. My heart goes out to Jim's wife, Judy, and their children and grandchildren, whom he loved tremendously. Countless friends, touched by his generosity and big heart, will also miss him deeply.

Jim will be remembered always for his lifelong dedication to the town and people of Clinton. As first selectman, he expertly managed the town budget and contributed tremendously in energy and spirit. He had a magnetic gift of connecting with his community and neighbors.

In addition to his leadership as first selectman, Jim spent more than a decade on both the Clinton Board of Finance and the Clinton Board of Selectmen. He was also involved with the Clinton Education Federation, Families Helping Families, Meals on Wheels, and St. Mary's Knights of Columbus.

In tribute to Jim's service to his country as a United States Marine, flags were hung at half staff. He was always there to give a smile and engage in earnest conversation. Jim loved to sing Irish songs on St. Patrick's Day. As a patriot and veteran, he will be particularly missed this Memorial Day. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring Jim McCusker's long-time, selfless service. Although missed, he will not be forgotten. Jim's sense of humor, warmth with others, and dedication to country will be felt throughout Clinton for years to come.

#### REMEMBERING LANCE CORPORAL LAWRENCE R. PHILIPPON

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I have the great privilege of presenting a poem in memory of LCpl Lawrence R. Philippon of West Hartford, CT, who gave his life 8 years ago this May while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom as a courageous member of the United States Marines. In the Marine Corps color guard, Lance Corporal Philippon carried the flag at the funeral for President Reagan, but yearned to be on the front lines. It was there, as a brave member of the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, 2nd Marine expeditionary force that he made the ultimate sacrifice for his country.

As Memorial Day nears, we dedicate ourselves in gratitude to our heroes—our servicemen and women, both recent and throughout history—who have sacrificed and served for our freedom, protecting the founding principles we hold dear.

This special poem was written by Albert Carey Caswell, a longtime member